

REMARKS

As amended, claim 1 calls for forming a pair of surfaces that are spaced from one another. Thus, the claims patentably distinguish over Miura because the surfaces 1 and 2 are not spaced from one another.

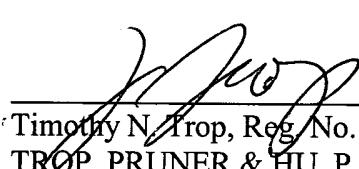
Claim 1 was also amended to call for forming a centrally located hole in a plurality of radially displaced holes. No such structure is shown in Haba.

Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. For the same reason, claim 11 and its dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. New claim 26 corresponds to claim 4 which was indicated to be allowable.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/2/03

  
Timothy N. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994  
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.  
8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100  
Houston, TX 77024  
713/468-8880 [Phone]  
713/468-8883 [Fax]